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Area Wage Survey
Birmingham, AL
April 1985

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U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
May 1985

This summary presents results of an April 1985 survey of occupational wages and supplementary benefits in the Birmingham Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker Counties. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 126 establishments employing 62,759 workers was selected to represent 633 establishments employing 128,498 workers in the area. (See table 5 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Tables 2, 3, and 4 present information on paid holidays, vacation pay provisions, and health, insurance, and pension plans for nonsupervisory production and related workers and office workers.

Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

New or revised occupational descriptions are being introduced in this survey for word processors, motor vehicle mechanics (formerly maintenance mechanics, motor vehicles), and material handling laborers.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Birmingham, AL, April 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (all workers)[3]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																					
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 and over
Secretaries	1,257	6.38	7.03	6.60– 9.77	-	-	2	6	76	71	137	134	131	97	85	88	66	57	82	49	26	37	49	24	13	9	9
Secretaries I	373	6.71	6.66	6.00– 7.43	-	-	2	5	49	36	79	45	57	46	36	6	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries II	129	8.25	8.44	7.21– 9.12	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	11	12	10	20	19	35	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries III	473	6.63	7.67	6.66–10.34	-	-	-	-	26	27	42	58	33	22	19	36	16	23	71	35	16	29	12	1	3	1	-
Secretaries IV	163	10.08	9.70	7.86–12.40	-	-	-	-	1	3	8	11	14	12	5	27	7	10	6	3	7	6	35	12	8	4	-
Secretaries V	95	10.65	9.62	8.03–13.74	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	7	4	9	6	13	3	2	-	-	2	11	2	4	49
Typists	223	5.43	5.19	4.90– 5.77	-	-	26	89	46	42	14	13	12	6	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typists I	167	5.35	4.99	4.90– 5.71	-	-	21	65	33	14	13	12	6	3	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typists II	56	5.65	5.77	5.48– 5.77	-	-	5	4	13	28	1	1	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Word processors	84	6.51	6.04	5.06– 7.99	-	-	-	18	16	6	8	5	5	5	5	9	3	6	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Word processors I	61	5.68	5.48	4.68– 6.32	-	-	-	18	16	6	8	5	5	5	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
File clerks	368	4.90	4.58	3.90– 5.51	-	100	67	57	43	24	28	30	5	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
File clerks I	184	4.80	4.33	3.65– 5.24	-	70	29	25	21	17	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
File clerks II	150	4.90	4.60	4.03– 5.35	-	30	38	32	22	7	4	7	3	1	2	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Messengers	11	5.85	5.61	- – -	-	-	1	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receptionists	11	5.24	5.19	- – -	-	-	4	-	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	92	5.71	5.15	4.76– 6.49	-	-	2	33	15	6	12	7	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators	784	6.05	5.67	5.01– 6.90	-	40	103	36	127	120	81	114	63	21	19	12	17	4	18	3	3	-	3	3	-	-	-
Key entry operators I	638	5.86	5.50	4.93– 6.66	-	37	91	33	111	97	70	100	54	11	10	13	6	15	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators II	156	6.82	6.50	5.54– 8.15	-	3	12	3	16	32	11	14	9	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Computer operators	589	7.92	7.24	6.12–11.05	-	18	12	15	36	38	91	52	50	20	37	23	25	3	12	4	144	4	4	-	-	-	-
Computer operators I	156	6.07	6.32	5.26– 6.86	-	18	3	4	24	11	36	35	13	4	-	2	6	-	-	4	142	2	4	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	350	8.65	8.37	6.33–11.05	-	-	9	11	12	25	42	14	21	12	36	9	5	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators III	82	8.33	8.54	7.05– 9.48	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	3	16	4	1	12	14	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer data librarians	7	7.00	7.35	- – -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drafters	531	9.13	9.48	7.50–10.57	-	-	-	14	22	15	29	18	24	52	48	26	20	47	88	45	30	24	16	16	9	6	-
Drafters II	115	8.55	8.71	6.87–10.44	-	-	-	-	-	15	5	12	7	11	4	4	7	22	6	6	11	4	4	9	-	2	-
Drafters III	209	8.67	8.36	7.68– 9.53	-	-	-	-	20	-	21	-	4	26	44	21	7	22	18	26	13	14	9	4	-	-	-
Drafters IV	133	10.42	10.50	9.74–11.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	3	10	24	1	5	114	1	2	1	3	24	6
Electronics technicians	184	10.82	10.50	10.50–10.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	6	7	2	-	2	1	3	3	1	2	1	3	-	6	-
Electronics technicians III	30	11.71	10.83	9.17–15.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance carpenters	39	10.29	10.50	10.46–10.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	2	-	11	16	-	1	3	-	-	-	6
Maintenance electricians	366	11.18	10.50	10.26–12.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	25	-	10	148	64	-	5	84	52	1	-	-
Maintenance painters	34	8.69	10.08	5.15–10.45	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	1	9	-	2	1	5	-	-	-	-
Maintenance machinists	132	10.72	10.46	9.54–12.65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	8	8	50	13	-	-	29	6	-	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	584	9.82	10.06	8.47–10.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	-	66	61	12	33	89	59	5	6	66	45	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	379	10.96	10.00	9.75–13.18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	40	-	-	-	32	26	114	38	11	-	6	30	93	13	-
General maintenence workers	270	6.64	6.50	5.83– 7.25	-	-	14	28	2	34	11	101	20	22	5	17	2	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tool and die makers	17	10.56	10.50	10.44–10.64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	8	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers	1,335	8.18	7.26	4.90–13.23	35	80	170	132	44	22	58	23	250	39	13	38	-	5	27	-	10	47	-	209	133	-	-
Truckdrivers, light truck	503	5.52	4.95	4.25– 7.26	-	73	134	51	22	10	10	-	203	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	40	100	-	-
Truckdrivers, medium truck	245	11.05	13.73	7.00–14.60	-	-	29	-	-	11	1	18	25	-	-	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, heavy truck	196	5.59	4.95	4.56– 6.10	35	7	7	65	21	-	14	-	11	-	-	24	-	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	376	11.15	13.23	7.71–13.73	-	-	-	16	1	1	33	4	11	33	13	6	-	-	-	18	-	3	35	-	169	33	-	-
Shipping packers	108	4.47	4.20	4.00– 4.30	-	14	69	-	-	11	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Materiel handling laborers	426	7.25	7.06	6.91– 7.54	7	15	7	14	10	13	7	34	161	75	-	-	70	1	-	-	-	8	-	-	65	-	-	-
Forklift operators	749	8.17	7.71	7.54– 8.79	-	-	39	-	-	43	18	19	33	347	52	18	95	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guards	1,507	4.12	3.35	3.35– 3.50	965	236	2	13	21	27	22	46	43	4	56	36	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guards I	1,386	3.75	3.35	3.35– 3.50	961	236	2	13	21	20	15	32	1	4	33	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	2,388	3.94	3.45	3.35– 3.85	1263	674	84	69	105	50	21	34	10	44	7	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[3] Workers were distributed as follows: 4 at $16.00 to $17.00; 4 at $17.00 to $18.00; and 1 at $19.00 to $20.00.

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Table 2. Annual paid holidays for full-time workers in Birmingham, AL, April 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid holidays	9	(1)
In establishments providing paid holidays	91	99
Number of holidays:		
1 holiday	1	–
2 holidays	2	(1)
3 holidays	2	(1)
4 holidays	1	1
5 holidays	10	5
Plus 3 half days	–	(1)
6 holidays	4	15
Plus 1 half day	8	2
Plus 2 half days	–	2
7 holidays	9	9
Plus 1 half day	–	8
Plus 2 half days	–	3
8 holidays	20	10
9 holidays	12	22
10 holidays	12	15
11 holidays	14	5
12 holidays	2	2
13 holidays	(1)	(1)
Average number of paid holidays where provided (in days)	8.0	8.1

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 3. Paid vacation provisions[1] for full-time workers in Birmingham, AL, April 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid vacations	4	(2)
In establishments providing paid vacations	96	99
Length-of-time payment	94	99
Percentage payment	3	-
By vacation pay provisions for:[3]		
6 months of service:		
Under 1 week	11	6
1 week	13	48
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	-	5
2 weeks	(2)	(2)
1 year of service:		
1 week	71	20
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	4	1
2 weeks	20	78
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	3
2 years of service:		
1 week	3	7
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	93	89
2 weeks	1	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	-
Over 3 and under 4 weeks		
3 years of service:		
1 week	10	3
2 weeks	85	94
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	1	3
3 weeks	2	-
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	(2)	-
5 years of service:		
1 week	4	2
2 weeks	76	76
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	4	5
3 weeks	12	16
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	(2)	-
10 years of service:		
1 week	2	(2)
2 weeks	24	12
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	1	3
3 weeks	64	76
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	1	2
4 weeks	5	6
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	(2)	-
15 years of service:		
1 week	2	(2)
2 weeks	16	8
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	2	1
3 weeks	39	45
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	2	4
4 weeks	35	41
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	(2)
6 weeks	(2)	-
20 years of service:		
1 week	2	(2)
2 weeks	13	8
3 weeks	23	20
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	-	3
4 weeks	46	64
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	2	-
5 weeks	7	4
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	1	(2)
7 weeks	(2)	-
25 years of service:		
1 week	2	
2 weeks	13	6 (2)
3 weeks	18	19
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	2	1
4 weeks	31	41
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	-	3
5 weeks	27	27
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	- (2)
6 weeks	2	-
7 weeks	(2)	-
30 years of service:		
1 week	2	
2 weeks	13	6 (2)
3 weeks	18	19
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	2	1
4 weeks	28	41
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	-	3
5 weeks	20	25
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	(2)
6 weeks	8	2
7 weeks	(2)	-
9 weeks	3	1
Maximum vacation available:		
1 week	2	
2 weeks	13	6 (2)
3 weeks	18	19
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	2	1
4 weeks	28	41
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	-	3
5 weeks	20	25
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	(2)
6 weeks	8	2
7 weeks	(2)	-
9 weeks	3	1

[1] Includes basic plans only. Excludes plans such as vacation bonus, vacation-savings, and those plans which offer 'extended' or 'sabbatical' benefits beyond basic plans to workers with qualifying lengths of service. Typical of such exclusions are plans in the steel, aluminum, and can industries.

[2] Less than 0.5 percent.

[3] Includes payment other than 'length of time,' such as percentage of annual earnings or flat-sum payments converted to an equivalent time basis; a payment of 2 percent of annual earning was considered as 1 week's pay. Periods of service were chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression. For example, the changes in proportions at 10 years' service include changes in provisions occurring between 5 and 10 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after 10 years includes those eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after fewer years of service.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Health, insurance, and pension plans offered to full-time workers in Birmingham, AL, April 1998

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments offering at least one of the benefits shown below[1]	92	99
Life insurance	87	95
Noncontributory plans	87	64
Accidental death and dismemberment insurance	74	71
Noncontributory plans	55	53
Sickness and accident insurance or sick leave or both[2]	72	94
Sickness and accident insurance	58	33
Noncontributory plans	43	26
Sick leave (full pay and no waiting period)	25	72
Sick leave (partial pay or waiting period)	6	13
Long-term disability insurance	15	55
Noncontributory plans	11	38
Hospitalization insurance	90	99
Noncontributory plans	52	40
Surgical insurance	90	99
Noncontributory plans	52	40
Medical insurance	90	99
Noncontributory plans	52	40
Major medical insurance	89	99
Noncontributory plans	52	40
Dental insurance	48	37
Noncontributory plans	36	26
Health maintenance organization	11	8
Noncontributory plans	7	5
Retirement pension	61	87
Noncontributory plans	51	85

[1] Estimates listed after type of benefit are for all plans for which at least part of the cost is borne by the employer. 'Noncontributory plans' include only those financed entirely by the employer. Excluded are legally required plans such as workers' compensation, social security, and railroad retirement.

[2] Unduplicated total of workers receiving sick leave or sickness and accident insurance shown separately below. Sick leave plans are limited to those which definitely establish at least the minimum number of days' pay that each employee can expect. Informal sick leave allowances determined on an individual basis are excluded.

Table 6. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Birmingham, AL,[1] April 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments				
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey				Studied[4]
				Total[5]		Full-time production and related workers	Full-time office workers	
				Number	Percent			
All divisions	50	633	126	128,498	100	58,509	25,254	62,759
Manufacturing	50	179	25	34,480	27	26,215	3,046	14,080
Nonmanufacturing[6]	50	454	101	94,008	73	33,294	22,208	47,779

[1] The Birmingham Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through February 1974, consists of Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker Counties. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes executive, professional, part-time, and other workers excluded from the separate production and office categories.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

Area Wage Survey Summaries

The following areas are surveyed periodically. Reports on the surveys are available at no cost from any of the Bureau's regional offices while supplies last.

Alaska (statewide)
Albany, Ga.
Albuquerque, N. Mex.
Alexandria-Leesville, La.
Alpena-Standish-Tawas City, Mich.
Ann Arbor, Mich.
Asheville, N.C.
Atlantic City, N.J.
Augusta, Ga.-S.C.
Austin, Tex.
Bakersfield, Calif.
Baton Rouge, La.
Battle Creek, Mich.
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, Tex.-La.
Biloxi-Gulfport and Pascagoula-Moss Point, Miss.
Binghamton, N.Y.
Birmingham, Ala.
Bloomington-Vincennes, Ind.
Bremerton-Shelton, Wash.
Brunswick, Ga.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Champaign-Urbana-Rantoul, Ill.
Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro, S.C.
Charlotte-Gastonia, N.C.
Cheyenne, Wyo.
Clarksville-Hopkinsville, Tenn.-Ky.
Colorado Springs, Colo.
Columbia-Sumter, S.C.
Columbus, Ga.-Ala.
Columbus, Miss.
Connecticut (statewide)
Decatur, Ill.
Des Moines, Iowa
Dothan, Ala.
Duluth-Superior, Minn.-Wis.
El Paso-Alamogordo-Las Cruces, Tex.-N. Mex.
Eugene-Springfield-Medford, Oreg.
Fayetteville, N.C.
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton, Fla.
Fort Smith, Ark.-Okla.
Fort Wayne, Ind.
Gadsden and Anniston, Ala.
Goldsboro, N.C.
Grand Island-Hastings, Nebr.
Guam, Territory of
Harrisburg-Lebanon, Pa.
Knoxville, Tenn.
La Crosse-Sparta, Wis.
Laredo, Tex.
Lexington-Fayette, Ky.
Lima, Ohio
Little Rock-North Little Rock, Ark.
Logansport-Peru, Ind.
Lorain-Elyria, Ohio
Lower Eastern Shore, Md.-Va.-Del.
Macon, Ga.
Madison, Wis.
Maine (statewide)
Mansfield, Ohio
McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg and Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, Tex.
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa, Fla.
Meridian, Miss.
Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties, N.J.
Mobile-Pensacola-Panama City, Ala.-Fla.
Montana (statewide)
Montgomery, Ala.
Nashville-Davidson, Tenn.
New Bern-Jacksonville, N.C.
New Hampshire (statewide)
North Dakota (statewide)
Northern New York
Northwest Texas
Orlando, Fla.
Oxnard-Simi Valley-Ventura, Calif.
Peoria, Ill.
Phoenix, Ariz.
Pine Bluff, Ark.
Portsmouth-Chillicothe-Gallipolis, Ohio
Pueblo, Colo.
Puerto Rico
Raleigh-Durham, N.C.
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Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.
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Tulsa, Okla.
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